

4 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to DD/I (NSC)

FROM: Assistant Director, OBI

SUBJECT: Exchange of Persons with the USSR

REFERENCE: Draft of CIA Position dated 23 September 1955

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 NO CHANGES
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1. I consider reference draft a thorough examination of the question in detail. In larger perspective, however, I've set down some thoughts on two fundamental factors which may be worth considering.

2. The first of these factors might be referred to as the "open and shut" situations prevailing respectively in the USSR and the USA. As a rough analogy one might compare them to the two players at the same poker game, one of whom is playing "draw" poker, the other "stud" poker. All the former's cards are held close to the chest; the latter has only his "ace-in-the-hole" concealed. Under such circumstances, any exchange of information on the card values each holds is bound to give more information to the "stud" poker player than to his opponent, providing the "ace-in-the-hole" is not revealed before the showdown. In other words, considering the open sources of our scientific, technical, and economic knowledge as contrasted with the closed Soviet sources, it is to our overall advantage to exchange visits on as wide a front as possible, providing only that our really vital security (the "ace-in-the-hole") is protected.

3. The second of these fundamental factors is related to the field of propaganda. It is my thesis that every Soviet visitor to the US has some of the scales removed from his eyes. He can no longer be so easily swayed by false logic or distorted facts concerning the US. Moreover, he is less likely to believe in the invincibility of Communism when he sees, in fact, the realization of the worker's dream in this most capitalistic nation on earth. From the long-range propaganda value, therefore, it would appear to our advantage to give conducted tours to as many key Communist officials as possible. It is difficult to see in the total view where we could lose in any reciprocal game of "look and see."

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

K. A. KNOWLES

USSR Travel Exchange